

HERE TO STAY HERE TO FIGHT

RASH-NYC INFO BULLETIN Volume 2 Issue 3 January 2005

The Best U.S. Anti-Fascist Skinhead Zines

By Dan Sabater
RASH-NYC

Unlike Europe, there has never been a huge culture of anti-fascist skinhead zines in the United States. Maybe it's that the anti-fascist skinhead scene here has never been that big, or maybe it's that skinheads hate to read.

In any event, over the years there have been a few such zines that really had the "sus". Whether it was music, fashion, outlook, politics or style, these zines had it all. They truly captured what being a skinhead is all about, and together they form a far better "Skinhead Bible" than George Marshall's midget ass could ever hope to write.

BOOTS AND BOOZE (San Jose, California; 1986-1993; 10 issues)

This is hands-down my personal favorite anti-fascist skinzine. You only need to read the byline "Back Street Style For Dead End Yobs" to know it's gonna be good.



This zine featured lots of reprints on 60's skinhead culture, with articles on reggae, fashion, beer and aggro. It also had great artwork, and the same sense of humor you'll find on a Judge Dread LP (and that means fucking funny!). The perfect zine to read when you're having a pint. Pure style. If there's a skinhead heaven, editor Joel L. has definitely earned himself a spot.

NEVER SURRENDER
(New York City; 1997; 1 issue)

This was perhaps the first proper Left-wing skinhead zine in the United States. Little wonder that it grew from

BOOK REVIEW

"Still Suitable For Miners- Billy Bragg: The Official Autobiography" (Virgin Books; London 2002) 296 pgs.

Billy Bragg holds a dubious distinction in my life: he is the only major music act I've ever bought a concert ticket for and ended up walking out on.

I paid sixteen bucks to see him at Irving Plaza in 1997. I was dressed all sussed in my *Sia Fux*, grey Fred Perry, red braces, DMs and denim jacket. I had a few pints at the bar before going, and I was expecting a rockin' socialist time. The adrenaline was definitely flowing, me having been raised on a steady diet of hardcore, punk and ska shows. I'll admit I hadn't heard much Billy Bragg. All I knew is that he

(Cont. from pg. 1)

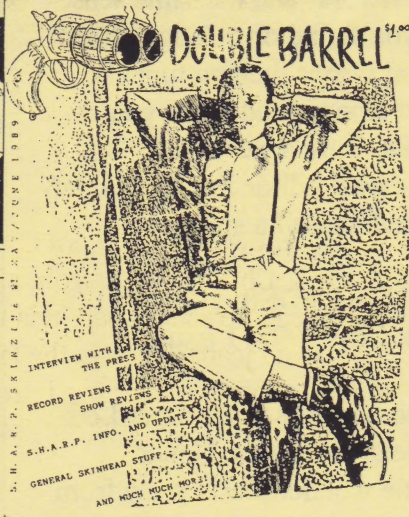
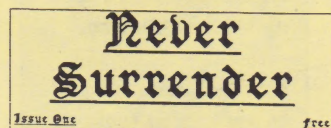
the second RASH-NYC crew. Again, the byline says it all: "A zine dedicated to anti-fascist skinheads everywhere". An article featuring the personal experiences of a punk during the original Oi! years, a RED-SKINS interview, stuff on Northern Soul, an editorial against the bullshit dead-end of "no politics" in the skinhead scene, record reviews, anti-fascism and much more. This was a really monumental zine, and I'm not just saying that because I use to date the editor.

DOUBLE BARREL

(New York City; 1989; 1 issue)

Many people have said that this first-ever SHARP zine was responsible for bringing traditional skinhead culture to the United States, and they wouldn't be far off the mark.

At a time when New York hardcore was all the rage, DOUBLE BARREL was focusing on skinhead reggae, 60's fashion and Oi! that doesn't suck. It didn't hurt that editor Marcus P. was an artist, insuring both a nice layout and great artwork. With its original United States SHARP networking info, this zine is a real piece of history. Joe Hawkins would be proud!



COLORBLIND (Chicago; 1989; 1 issue)

This zine was published by a Black skinhead involved with the Chicago chapter of Anti-Racist Action, and with the Syndicate, a now long-forgotten network of Midwest anti-fascist skinheads. Back then Anti-Racist Action was an organization that grew out of the Baldies, a sizable crew of Minneapolis-based skinheads. At the time ARA was far more of a street-fighting organization, and less the network of political activists it would later become. This zine featured a lot of frontline news and culture from a city that has always had a proud heritage of anti-fascist skinheads. From the days when U.S. skinheads were more likely to wear a t-shirt than a Ben Sherman, and crombies were never seen.

BATTLE SCARRED

(Chicago; 1997-1998; 2 issues)

Chicago did it again! Following in the tradition of Colorblind came Battle Scarred. This zine was uncompromisingly anti-fascist while the rest of the scene was crying "no politics". With a strong focus on both history and the present, Battle Scarred covered all bases. Also featured editor Marty's great sense of humor. Definitely not a zine for skinheads more worried about getting their clothes dirty than putting the boot in against boneheads.

Photocopies of any of the above-listed zines are available to anyone donating material to the RASH-NYC anti-fascist skinhead archive. We're always on the lookout for zines, videos, news clippings and other items of interest that we don't have in our collection. All those interested in trading should drop a line to the RASH-NYC post office box or send us an email.

RASH-NYC

P.O. Box 364

Canal St. Station

New York, NY 10013-0364

djhagler@hotmail.com

POST-MODERN SKINHEADS

The evolution of skinhead music

Skinheads have been around as a distinct subculture since 1967. One of the greatest things about being part of a culture that spans 37 years is the incredible range of music associated with the style. As skinheads have continued and evolved, so has the music they've listened to.

Skinheads grew from the mods, and many skinheads listen to the original mod and mod revival bands (The Who, The Small Faces, The Kinks, The Jam, Secret Affair, etc.). Also from the mods, skinheads acquired their love of American soul music (Motown and Stax).

The first love of the original skinheads was Jamaican music. Ska, rocksteady and reggae musicians were like patron saints to the original crop-heads. If you don't love Jamaican music and you call yourself a skinhead, you just aren't authentic.

As skinheads grew their hair out in the early 70's, they went through their bootboy phase. Bands like Slade evolved from braces and short haircuts to the ghastly glam rock look. Regardless, because of this link you'll find many a skinhead who is an aficionado of 1970's glitter/ glam bands like Sweet, Mott the Hoople, T Rex, etc.

In 1976 and 1977, punk hit the scene. You'd be hard pressed to find a skinhead in this day and age that doesn't love early punk. Groups like the Clash and Stiff Little Fingers have always had considerable skinhead followings. Also, on a more personal note, many American skinheads love the early CBGB's bands like the Ramones and the Dead Boys. After all, without them there would have been no hardcore music, and likely the skinhead subculture never would have reached the USA.

From the belly of punk rock came the proto-streetpunk bands like Sham 69, Menace, Cock Sparrer and Slaughter and the Dogs. You don't get more skinhead than these bands. It was their pioneering efforts, thanks as well to transitional bands

like the Angelic Upstarts and the Cockney Rejects, that lead to the birth of Oi! In Oi!, skinheads found for the first time a music that was all their own.

The story would have ended there had it not been for Jerry Dammers and company. Just when skinhead was in danger of degenerating into a style-less mob of kids in faded jeans and glue-stained t-shirts, 2 Tone came along and made it fashionable to get dressed up and go out dancing again. Although it only lasted a short time, 2 Tone produced some of the most fun music the world has ever known.

While reggae of the 60's variety is the one most often associated with skinheads, there are plenty who love the 70's roots and dub variety as well, thanks in part to the "punky reggae" crossover of bands like the CLASH and the RUTS.



Back in the USA, punk splintered in a hundred directions. The most important faction for skinheads developed into American hardcore. Whether it was Washington DC, Southern California, NYC, Boston, Chicago or Detroit, all of the early American hardcore scenes had kids with shaved heads, boots and jeans. Then in the late 80's, NYC bands turned skinhead hardcore into an artform, thanks to groups like Agnostic Front, the Cro-Mags, Warzone, Sick Of It All, etc.

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It's unfortunate that the Third Wave ska revival of the mid-90's was such crap that it made everyone associate the music with reject circus acts. There was a time in the late 80's and very early 90's when Third Wave ska was skinhead music, and helped to hold aloft the torch of the original skinhead style. It was also tied in very closely with the birth of S.H.A.R.P. Don't believe me? Check out early releases on labels like Moon, Skank and Unicorn, or listen to early music by the Toasters, Donkey Show and Maroon Town. Third Wave ska was a really stylin' scene when it was underground. Unfortu-

nately, "success" in the form of wide-spread commercialism meant it turned into the horrendous disposable crap it was to become.

In this day and age, you'll find skinheads listening to bands coming from or inspired by all these eras. You'll even find skinheads listening to dancehall and hip-hop as forms of legitimate street music, though they probably won't admit it in public! And that's yet another reason to stay a skinhead for life. For a group of kids who dress so alike, skinheads sure do like a diversity of music. Without a doubt, we're the subculture with the best soundtrack.

-ATTENTION ZINE TRADERS-

The RASH-NYC Zine Archive is looking for good-quality copies or scans of the following:

ANTI-RACIST SKINHEAD ZINES

-BACKS AGAINST THE WALL

(Cardiff, UK; mid/late 80's)- all issues wanted
This was a great zine for '60's skinhead culture published by a guy named Dudley that use to run the HOT SHOT used-skinhead clothing mailorder.

-BOOTS AND BOOZE

(San Jose, CA; late 80's- early 90's)-
V.1 #1-3, V.2 #1, 3, 4, 5
The top-ranking skinzine, published by our main man Joel L. SHARP, 60's culture and Oi! that doesn't suck. Fucking hilarious like a good Rodney Dangerfield flick.

-HARD AS NAILS

(UK; mid/late 80's)- #1-4, 6 up
The flagship UK 80's anti-racist skinzine.
Strong focus on 60's culture



-SPY KIDS

(Scotland, UK; late 80's)- #1, 3 up
Zine of the infamous trad skinhead crew.
Strongly anti-fascist.

-TIGHTEN UP

(UK; late 80's/ mid 90's)- various issues
Anti-fascist skinzine with lots of good reggae stuff.
Published by Toast and Sue.

SOCIALIST AND CLASS-STRUGGLE ANARCHIST SKINHEAD ZINES

-BLACK AND WHITE

(Euskadi; c. 1993)- all issues wanted
Zine of RASH/ SHARP- Euskadi. We're especially looking for issue #3 that focused on the Guillem Agullo murder (we had the issue, but it was stolen).

-Oi! Oi! REVENGE

(Shropfordshire, UK; c. '93/'94)- all issues wanted
A UK anti-fascist and class struggle skinzine. Also, we want the "Street Sounds" tape comp put out by the guy who edited this zine.

STRICTLY MUSIC

-BLACK MUSIC

(UK; 1970's)- all issues wanted
Great interviews of reggae artists in the UK, including LKJ and Lee Perry.

-DUB CATCHER (NYC; early 90's) #1-6, 8 up
Early 90's reggae zine from NY. Lots of coverage of skinhead reggae superstars (Derrick Morgan, Alton Ellis, Lee Perry, etc.)

-LET'S CATCH THE BEAT

(UK; mid 90's)- various issues wanted
The zine of The Official Trojan Appreciation Society (T.O.T.A.S.). Skinhead reggae stuff you won't find anywhere else.

PEOPLE'S SKA ANNUAL

(NY; late 90's)- all issues except Summer '98
Really good reggae and ska zine put out by Noah Wildman, former manager of Moon Records.

ZOOT

(Scotland, UK; late 80's)- all issues wanted
George Marshall's pre-SKINHEAD TIMES zine. Coverage of the early third-wave ska scene.

MILITANT ANTI-FASCIST ZINES

-NO KKK, NO FASCIST USA/ DEATH TO THE KLAN (USA; late 80's)- various issues wanted
Newspaper of the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee, one of the top ranking militant anti-fascist groups of the late 1980's.

LEFT-WING MUSIC AND CULTURE ZINES

-TEMPORARY HOARDING

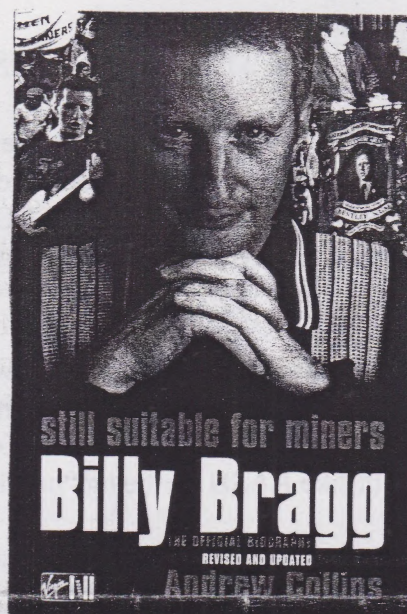
(UK; late 70's)- all issues wanted
This was the zine published by the original 1970's UK Rock Against Racism group. We're also looking for the book on RAR called "Beating Time: Riot, Race and Rock 'N' Roll" By David Widgery.

-WAKE UP

(UK; 1980's/ early 90's)- all issues wanted
This zine's trademark was long-ass political articles, and it also featured stuff on the NEUROTICS and the REDSKINS.

-WELL RED

(UK; 1987-1990's)- all issues wanted
The zine of the anti-Tory music coalition RED WEDGE in the UK



(Billy Bragg review cont. from cover)

played in a punk band (Riff-Raff), him and Alexei Sayle had jammed with the REDSKINS and he was as red as a baby's diaper-rashed ass.

When I got there, I was appalled. The show was about as much fun as church! It was all these NYU college types, sitting around, legs folded Indian-style, in their sweaters and horn-rimmed glasses. As I'm not much of an intellectual and I've never been to a wealthy university, I haven't crossed paths much with the democratic socialist movement in this country. But judging by what I saw, class-struggle Anarchism has much better concerts.

It wasn't that Billy Bragg was bad, per se, but I guess I'm not much of a folk music fan. The entire time he was on stage, I kept thinking back to that John Belushi scene in ANIMAL HOUSE where he smashes the guy's guitar against the wall. Also, Billy Bragg's jokes between songs really weren't that funny. It could also be that my sense of humor revolves around dick jokes.

Anyway, after two songs I had had it. I spent the rest of the night back at the bar, pounding pints and cursing the fact that I'd wasted 16 bucks of perfectly good beer money.

With my first negative experience with Mr. Bragg, it comes as a great surprise that I really liked

STRAIGHT FROM THE MAN HIMSELF

Many non-political skinheads in the USA are surprised when they find out that Oil heroes like the ANGELIC UPSTARTS or THOSE UNKNOWN hold a high opinion of RASH, and are willing to play our events.

These same skinheads have always debated with us about THE OPPRESSED, arguing that a band that so thoroughly personifies the essence of being a skinhead must dislike RASH for being "political".

Below are some excerpts from an interview with the OPPRESSED's lead singer Roddy Moreno. Check out Work Together e-zine (www.work-together.de.vu) for the entire interview

"Remember how it used to be back in the eighties when the Boneheads nearly strangled the (skinhead) cult. Remember how kids thought to be a Skinhead you had to be a Nazi. If it wasn't for S-H-A-R-P and other goups like A-F-A, A-R-A, R-A-S-H and all the rest we would be swimming in a sea of swastikers by now.

Don't listen to all the shit about splits and politics, the Boneheads go on about it because they know how we drove them underground and reclaimed Skinhead culture for true Skinheads. The non-politicals go on about it because it's easier than taking on the scum. I've been a Skinhead since 1969 and I know what it's meant since day one."

Work Together: What do you think about RASH? The Angelic Upstarts, for example worked together with them closely. Did you have or had closer contact with RASH groups?

"I haven't had any contact with RASH but I support what they stand for and their fight against Fascists. People say the REDS are no better than the Nazis, but I don't see no reds attacking innocent asian kids or desecrating jewish

graves. Redskins give nobody trouble except Nazis so more power to them. To me it's simple, Nazis are cowards who pick on people they know can't defend themselves. RASH are just sussed Skinheads who fight to defend their culture. People call them commie bastards for the same reason they slag SHARP. Fuck the Fascists and fuck those who turn their backs on the Fascist threat."

The Oppressed will be playing a one-off concert in late April in Toronto for the Insurgence Records five-year anniversary party, an event that RASH will be heavily involved in. For more info, check out the Insurgence Records website at www.insurgence.net



"RASH ARE JUST SUSSED SKINHEADS WHO FIGHT TO DEFEND THEIR CULTURE"

NICE ONE, RODDY!!!

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Congratulations to Pan Pan (ex-SHARP Portland/Carson City Skins) on the birth of his son. Somebody warn the world- Pan has reproduced!

On a sadder note, Phil F. of Hamilton Ontario Canada, one of the founders of Insurgence Records recently passed away in this sleep. He will be sadly missed. He left behind a son. We loved you, bro.



INSURGENCE RECORDS LAUNCHES "PROJECT BONEYARD USA"

In September 2004, a fascist record label in the US claimed to be producing 100,000 CD samplers of "white power music" for concentrated distribution throughout disaffected white communities across America- from coast to coast, in every state. These CDs are to be handed out in middle schools, high schools, university campuses, shopping malls, sporting events, mainstream concerts, parties and via direct-mail schemes.

Although the concept of grown men skulking around schoolyards is disturbing enough on its own, the express aim of the propaganda drop is to lure white youth 'between the ages of 13-19' into the fascist movement. They have a name for their initiative: 'Project Schoolyard USA' According to their own estimate, 20,000 CDs have already been pressed and shipped, while an additional 20,000 are reported on the way. As expected (and eagerly anticipated by the fascists), the hysterical media and liberal lobby machines have gone into overdrive hyping the situation, inadvertently adding fuel to the fire. The negative yet newsworthy representation of 'skinheads' is on the upswing again.

Fact is, these fascists aren't proper skinheads at all. They exhibit no lineage to the traditional merits of true skinhead culture, one that is rooted in working class pride and ethics that vehemently reject prejudice. Anti-fascists commonly refer to the fascist variety of the shaven crop as 'boneheads'. They've got nothing on real skinheads and the hardcore kids of the street. Ultimately, they are the enemy of anyone who cares about the welfare of their scene and the broader community,

To this effect, Insurgence has set up its own project to combat the influence of their opportunistic bullshit: Project Boneyard USA. The aim is to counter the cancerous quick-fix ideas and selfish motives of these sideshow hucksters. We're motivated to take action here, not simply because they sully the name of real skinheads in their bid for mainstream acceptance, but because they push

their empty-headed propaganda on disenfranchised white kids. This social group is our natural constituency- not theirs.

We call on real skinheads and anti-fascists everywhere to remind these chumps where their place is. In the dustbin of history!

To help mount a counter-campaign in the same areas they are targeting for manipulation, we are offering a free music sampler of 16 tracks, available electronically (Preview the sampler on the Radio.Blog on our front page). Download the relevant materials below and follow the quick and easy instructions to run off copies, all from the convenience of your home! We encourage fans of real street music, concerned individuals and groups in the United States to produce stacks of our sampler to disseminate across the country.

In order to make a serious impact, the project relies solely on street-level promotion. That's where you come in! The success of this project will depend on the sheer QUANTITY of CDs we can get into circulation. We need your burning ambition to make this a significant campaign. We need to top the output of the opposition and show them that the kids on the street can think and act for themselves. Send the boneheads and their low-rent racket packing with Project Boneyard USA!

For more info: www.insurgence.net

BRIGADA TOUR QUEBEC

Congratulations to RASH-Paris stalwarts BRIGADA FLORES MAGON on their successful tour of Quebec. They played 5 shows, including one in Montreal at the RASH-Mtl social spot. BRIGADA play powerful French Oi! with lyrics about the frontline fight against fascism and the rich. They present a view of the streets of France that most Americans probably never get to see. Their debut CD on INSURGENCE is available for \$6 postage-paid from the RASH-NYC P.O. Box. As Brigada say, "Rock or Die!"

RASH-NYC BASIC POLITICAL EDUCATION BOOKLIST

As mentioned in H2S H2F #1, RASH-NYC asks all of its voting members to read 26 basic books that represent a cross-section of our political ideology. We do this because RASH's ultimate goal is to turn left-wing skinheads into working-class organizers in their workplaces, communities, schools, prisons and the military.

It may seem ironic that we ask skinheads, almost all of whom hated school, to read books. When you think about it though, it makes sense. Here in the United States we live in an increasingly technocratic society. Those who understand information are able to successfully navigate the system. Those who don't understand information are more likely to get caught in the system's traps, and end up in jail, jobless and hopeless.

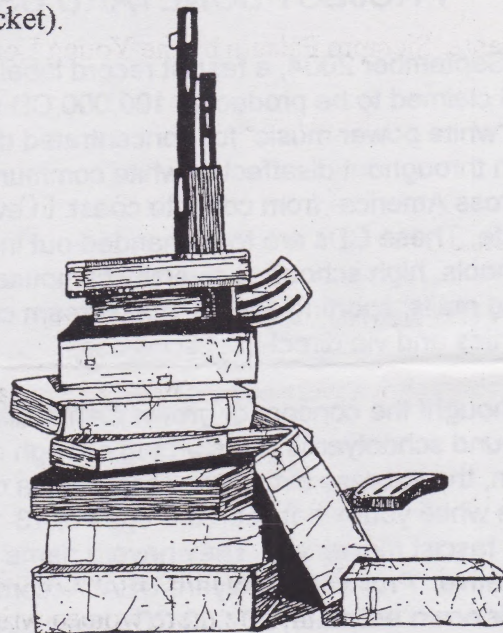
We can't allow knowledge to solely be the domain of the well-to-do. RASH believes in creating "street scholars" and "warrior intellectuals". We look to the great examples of self-educated militants like Malcolm X. We want working-class kids to understand the forces allied against them so they can fight back in a more disciplined, strategic and effective manner.

Information also provides ideas and inspiration as to what is possible, based upon the examples of the insurgent working-class around the world.

We need to have an educated membership to avoid the group being hijacked by grad students and college professors, the over-educated eggheads who control most of the US Left. And you wonder why "political correctness" and campus issues dominate the Left's concerns over class issues like getting people healthcare, affordable housing and childcare. The college Left doesn't focus on these issues because most of the college Left HAVE access to healthcare, housing and childcare.

So there it is. Don't be put off of reading just because of the nerds and bookworms. Nobody owns

the words on a page, and nobody owns the thoughts in your head. Read so you can define your own future, and fuck the people who try to make you feel small because you don't have a PhD (or a BA, MA, a diploma or even a dime in your pocket).



Books are ammunition in the class war!

Here are the first 13 titles on our booklist. The next 13 will be printed in a future issue of **HERE TO STAY- HERE TO FIGHT:**

- A People's History of the United States By Howard Zinn
- Anarchism By Daniel Guerin (Monthly Review Press/ AK Press)
- Autobiography of Malcolm X By Malcolm X with Alex Haley
- Blood In The Face By James Ridgeway (Thunder's Mouth Press)
- Breaking Free By Jack Daniels (Attack International)
- Dynamite: A Century of Class Violence in the USA By Louis Adamic
- Homage To Catalonia by George Orwell

-Introducing Marx (formerly "Marx For Beginners") by Rius

-The IWW: It's First 70 Years 1905-1975 By Fred Thompson and Patrick Murfin (Charles H. Kerr)

-Palante, Siempre Palante by the Young Lords Party

-Strike! By Jeremy Brecher

-They Should Have Served That Cup of Coffee edited by Dick Cluster (South End Press)

-The War At Home By Brian Glick (South End Press)

The titles above were chosen because they are all fairly easy to read, the politics they express are mostly in line with our way of thinking and they are all highly relevant to the struggle we face in the USA.

Yes, we know all of these titles are written by men. We will do our best to include more women writers in our next 13 titles.



PRINT REVIEWS

Strike! #1 (Jun/ Jul 2004), #2 (Aug/ Sep) \$1 each
Strike! is the new bi-monthly newspaper published by the North East Federation of Anarchist-Communists (NEFAC). Most folks who know of NEFAC will associate them with the Black bloc at anti-globalization and anti-free trade actions, but NEFAC members are also involved in a variety of local organizing. This shines through in Strike!. There's strong coverage of workplace struggles, trade union fights, housing struggles, social issues (like abortion), G.I. resistance to the war and even a sex column! This paper is a great complement to NEFAC's journal Northeastern Anarchist. Strike! and NEFAC do a good job of filling the void left when the US Anarchist paper Love & Rage shut down. Also, props to NEFAC for using the name Strike!, which was the name of an early 80's US/ Canadian anarchist-communist newspaper. We're all links in the chain!
Stelton @ Collective PO Box 3107, New Brunswick, NJ 08903
www.nefac.org

Workers Solidarity #2 (June-Aug 2004) \$1.00

This is the second issue of this newsletter, published by the NY/ NJ local of the anarcho-sindicalist Workers Solidarity Alliance (WSA). As you'd expect, there's strong coverage of working-class related issues: the fight against gentrification, sweatshops, workplace struggles and the fight against the war and terrorism. Support the WSA- get this publication! WSA 339 Lafayette St. Rm.202, NYC 10012

www.workersolidarity.org



INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

Barricata #12 (June 2004) \$5 French-language

This is ridiculous! In Paris, the RASH chapter has a publication (Barricata) that is more professional looking than the publications of the largest Left groups here in the USA. Man, do we have a ways to go! Anyway, this issue is focused on the struggle in prison.

There's also band interviews with GUARAPITA (France), LA FRACTION, INNER TERRESTRIALS (UK), CONFLICT, Gee Vaucher from CRASS and RASH-Montreal stalwarts JEUNESSE APATRIDE (Apathetic Youth), plus music reviews. There's even a profile of old-school working-class country singer HANK WILLIAMS! For you political folks, there's news, information on Anarchist punks in Israel, the struggle in Palestine and anti-fascist hooligans at French soccer. Finally, there are interviews with two authors, book reviews and an article on Chicano community murals. Damn, I guess French skinheads are all literary and shit!

Reflex #7 (April 2004) \$5 French-language

Reflex is a long-running militant anti-fascist publication from France. This issue includes articles on fascists in France, the repressive French state, "R.A.C.", the UK bone-head group Combat 18, Jorg Haider in Austria, the far-right in Russia and an interview with RASH-Paris band BRIGADA FLORES MAGON. A nice-looking, great publication, but can somebody explain to us why Reflex lists as a contact the UK group SEARCHLIGHT, a paper and organization well known for trading information with the British intelligence services? Dangerous bedfellows, folks.
REFLEX, 21ter, rue Voltaire, 75011 Paris
www.reflexes.samizdat.net

(Billy Bragg review cont. from pg. 5)

reading his official biography "Still Suitable For Miners". Once I started reading it, I couldn't tear my eyes away. Perhaps it's because I *respect* Billy Bragg's commitment to socialism more than I like his music. But I highly recommend this book to all fans of 80's UK socialist punk.

The book starts off with Billy's childhood growing up in Barking, East London. I think it's cool that Billy grew up in Britain's equivalent of Brooklyn.

The chapters on Billy's experiences with his punk/pub rock band RIFF RAFF (who released a bunch of records between 1978-1980, including an early EP on Chiswick) are really interesting. I was also surprised by the parts about his time in the British Army, and entertained following his early solo-years playing the pub circuit.

Probably the most interesting chapters of the book (surely to red skinheads in the USA) are the coverage of Billy's involvement with the 1984 UK Miner's strike, his tours of East Germany and his spearheading of Red Wedge. Red Wedge was a coalition of musicians started in 1985 dedicated to raising electoral support for Britain's Labour Party in the hopes of driving Margaret Thatcher from office. This coalition included Paul Weller of THE JAM, Jerry Dammers of THE SPECIALS, Roland Gift of the FINE YOUNG CANNIBALS and many other musicians who came from the mod and 2-Tone scenes. Although they failed to oust Thatcher from office in 1987, Red Wedge is an important example of the power of combining music with politics, something that labels like Insurgence Records and groups like RASH United continue to do to this day.

American red skinheads should read this book for coverage of an incredibly important time in the genesis of our subculture. The book has large passages not only on the above-mentioned historic events (Red Wedge, the Miner's strike, Bragg's tour of Eastern Europe), but also on the REDSKINS, ATTILA THE STOCKBROKER, SEETHING WELLS and other mid-80's UK redskin heroes. There's lots of stuff even I didn't know.

I thought it was a laugh that on Billy Bragg's first US tour, he opened up for the horrific New Wave act ECHO AND THE BUNNYMEN. Old-school NY scenesters will also get a chuckle from the fact that Billy Bragg played a series of gigs at Danceteria, and even brought ranting redskin poet SEETHING WELLS with him. Oh, to have been a fly on that wall...

Finally, I liked the parts on Billy Bragg's efforts to put Woody Guthrie's unpublished lyrics to music. Woody Guthrie was a true American working-class rebel (and a Wobbly), and it gave me even more respect for Billy Bragg that he's keeping the memory of our important predecessor alive.

This book is very easy to read, and goes by quickly. The author sometimes overdoses on cheesy metaphors, but that doesn't detract from the story at all. He's also very thorough with times, dates, people and places, and the book includes a complete Billy Bragg discography.

I liked this book so much that it even inspired me to pull out my dusty Billy Bragg LPs and give the "big-nosed bastard from Barking" a second listen. I found that he's not all that bad when you're sitting at home with a bottle of red wine feeling all sensitive and shit. But as for live events, I'll take a hardcore show or skinhead reggae dancehall anyday. Anything to be away from those fucking dull democratic socialist students...

IWW ORGANIZES STARBUCKS WORKERS

In one of the most heartening stories we've heard all year, everyone's favorite radical labor union the IWW (Industrial Workers of the World) has been attempting to organize employees at the Starbucks coffee bar on Madison and 36th St.

We in RASH-NYC think this is fucking excellent, and fully support the union's efforts. Starbucks are evil corporate assholes, and the IWW is organizing exactly where it needs to be done. We wish them all the luck in the world.

Contact: dgross1959@yahoo.com

MORE USEFUL LEFT GROUPS AND PUBLICATIONS

Counterpunch
PO Box 228
Petrolia, CA 95558
counterpunch.org
Cutting-edge left-wing investigative journalism and opinion. Published every 2 weeks. Edited by Alexander Cockburn (snicker, snicker)

Fairness & Accuracy In Reporting
112 West 27th Street
New York, NY 10001
Fair.org
Watchdog group focusing on corporate bias and censorship in the news media. An excellent resource for those trying to change public opinion (like us anti-racist skin-heads!)

In These Times
2040 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Chicago, IL 60647
inthesetimes.com
Long-running progressive news magazine from the US' second city. Interesting and highly readable articles complete with nice layouts. Published every 2 weeks.

Left Business Observer
38 Greene St.- Fl 4
New York, NY 10013-2505
leftbusinessobserver.com
A Left (Marxist) analysis of current events with an eye toward all-things economic. This guy also helps edit The Nation magazine, and he writes books.

Left Turn
PO Box 445
New York, NY 10159-0445
leftturn.org
Fairly new radical Left publication that grew from the anti-globalization movement. Strongly anti-capitalist. Very readable layout and colorful graphics. Focuses on the laundry-list of struggles popular with Left (what they call the "global intifada").

Monthly Review
122 West 27th St.
New York, NY 10001
monthlyreview.org
Long-running intellectual Marxist (commie) publication. Extensive analysis of the misdeeds of the American empire. A real institution, but probably not for you if all you read are the funny papers and the sports section. Can't imagine these folks are much fun at parties.

New Formulation
P.O. Box 1664
Peter Stuyvesant Station
New York, NY 10009
newformulation.org
An anti-authoritarian (ie Anarchist) review of books. I think you have to have a PhD to write for this magazine. You'll like this if words like "scholarship", "hegemony" and "dominant paradigm" mean anything to you. A magazine for the Anarchists that liked school.

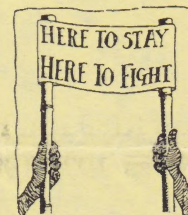
Practical Anarchy
PO Box 3123
Arlington, VA 22203
practicalanarchy.org
Activist Anarchist publication from the DC area. Has steadily improved over the last 10 years. A little touchy-feely (soup kitchen and gardening tips type stuff), but to each their own.

Red Balloon Collective
c/o Mitchell Cohen
2652 Cropsey Ave. #7H
Brooklyn, NY 11214
Independent Marxist collective. Do regular public events in south Brooklyn (big up!). Also publish a sporadic discussion bulletin. And the dude sells poetry on the train.

Resistance In Brooklyn Collective
C/o Meyer/ WRL
339 Lafayette St.
New York, NY 10012
Brooklyn-based anti-imperialist collective. Do regular public events.

HERE TO STAY HERE TO FIGHT
is the official info-bulletin of
RASH-NYC. Additional copies
are available for \$1 from:

RASH-NYC
PO Box 364
Canal St. Station
New York, NY 10013-0364
djhagler@hotmail.com

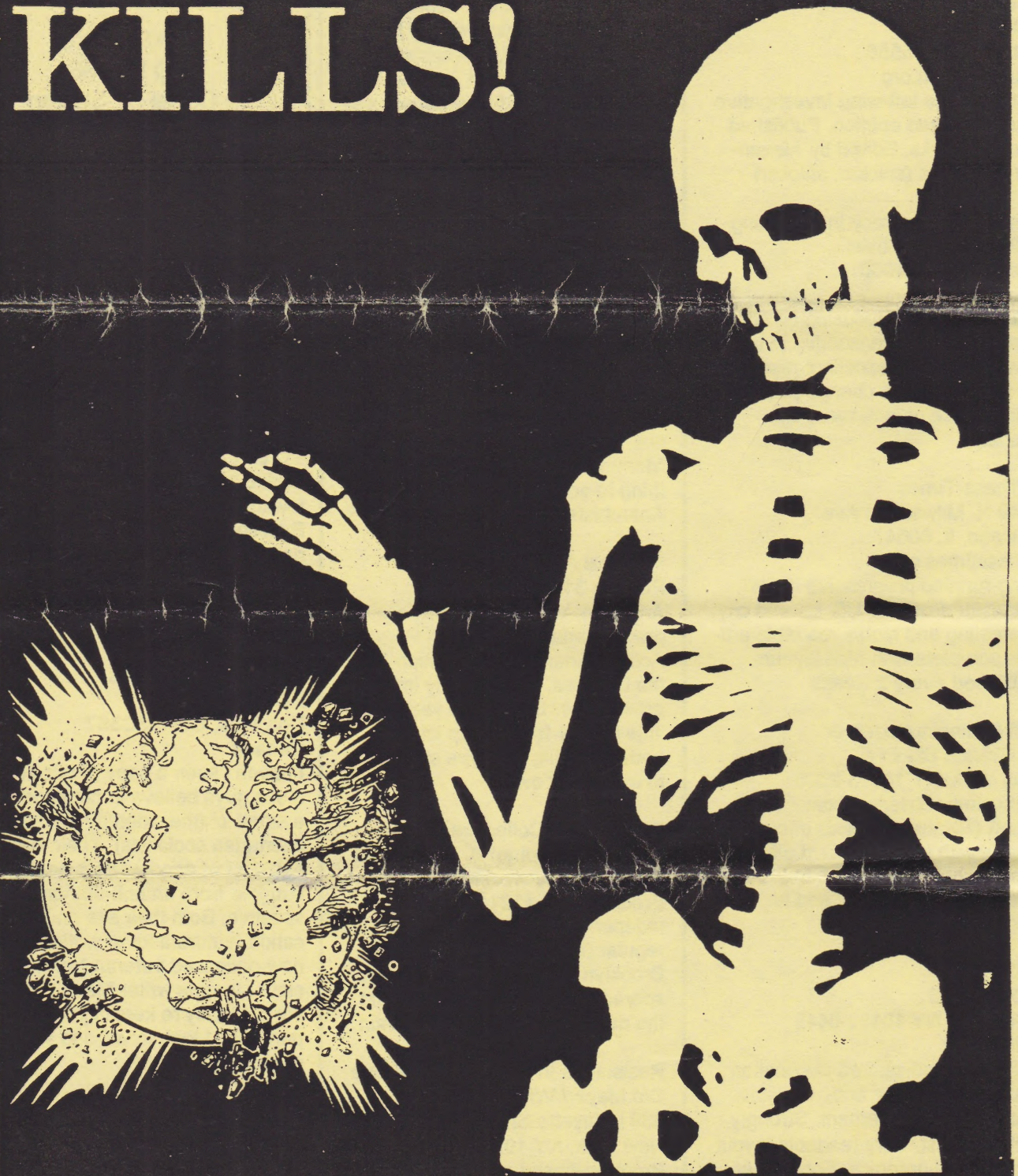


Toward Freedom
PO Box 468
Burlington, VT 05402
towardfreedom.com
Excellent magazine focusing on international issues from a progressive and social justice point of view. News and analysis you won't find in the mainstream media. Brings it all home.

Red and Black Notes
PO Box 47643
Don Mills, Ont M3C3S7
Canada
I haven't seen a copy of this yet, but these guys believe in communism with a small 'c' (they identify themselves as libertarian socialists). Their website has a lot of good articles on the class struggle from an anti-authoritarian perspective. Both their site and their publication feature a lot of writings from now-deceased veteran North American class struggle writer Marty Glaberman. I'm glad they're keeping this stuff in print, and I look forward to seeing their publication.

NEXT ISSUE:
-Self-defense updates
-DJ news
-US radical working-class history
-Merchandise list
Be there!

PATRIOTISM KILLS!



**Abolish the
Nation State Before
Nationalism Wrecks the Planet!**